

EXECUTIVE ORDER BJ 09-13

Governor Bobby Jindal issued the following Executive Order creating the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force whose mission is addressing factors adversely affecting Louisiana's shrimping industry, and forming strategies for boosting the economic vitality of the Louisiana shrimp industry.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana shrimp industry has a long, significant cultural importance to the State of Louisiana, and is of great economic impact because of the many jobs the industry provides;

WHEREAS, currently, global markets are experiencing an economic slowdown that, among other things, has led to extremely low prices that have affected all Louisiana shrimpers and the shrimp industry;

WHEREAS, in addition, in the last decade the number of commercial shrimpers in the state has decreased considerably, requiring the state to act and address the vulnerability of the industry;

WHEREAS, there should be an examination into how the industry functions, and to identify areas of concern which need to be addressed, including the potential violations of trade practices by foreign countries and the health and safety concerns of foreign produced shrimp; plans or policies should then be developed that will confront these issues; and

WHEREAS, all executive branch agencies and any political subdivisions therein should find ways in which they can increase the amount of Louisiana shrimp that they procure for any program they control which provides meals or food; parameters exist, namely Executive Order BJ 08-67 as well as R.S. 39:1595 and R.S. 38:2251, which can guide and encourage these agencies on the legality and procedures for procuring Louisiana shrimp;

NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: The Louisiana Shrimp Task Force (hereinafter Task Force) is established, shall be placed within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and shall be chaired by the Secretary of that Department.

SECTION 2:

A. The Task Force membership shall consist of the following:

1. The Governor, or his designee;
2. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, or his designee;
3. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or his designee;
4. The Attorney General, or his designee;
5. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, or his designee;
6. The Executive Director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, or his designee;
7. The Secretary of the Department of Louisiana Economic Development, or his designee; and
8. The Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his designee.

B. The Governor may designate additional persons as ex-officio members as he deems necessary and prudent, especially persons representing the shrimp industry.

SECTION 3: The Task Force may interface with industry organizations and other relevant parties, as well as receive data and information and review presentations from industry experts, on items which may have a significant impact on the Louisiana shrimp industry.

SECTION 4: Task Force members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem for their service, except for reimbursement for travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from their employing and/or elected department, agency and/or office.

SECTION 5: Support staff, facilities and resources for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SECTION 6:

A. The Task Force shall examine the Louisiana shrimp industry as a whole, identify areas of concern or problems endemic to the industry, and develop plans or propose policies which can improve the economic sustainability of the industry.

B. Issues the Task Force should examine, but which the Task Force is not limited to, are: the effect of the current global economic slowdown on local markets; the impact of foreign produced shrimp on domestic markets, and ways to improve demand for domestic produced shrimp; the health and safety concerns of foreign produced shrimp; and the various possibilities to increase the marketing and promotion of Louisiana shrimp.

SECTION 7: As a start, all departments, agencies, boards, commissions and budget units of the executive branch of state government shall pursue all opportunities available that are reasonable and economically prudent which will allow them to increase the amount of Louisiana shrimp they procure for meals or food provided by them.

SECTION 8: All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies and officers of the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to assist and cooperate with implementing the provisions of this Order.

SECTION 9: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 31st day of August, 2009.